

## Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 OPR-02 A-01 M-02 OC-06 CCO-00

SY-04 DRC-01 SSO-00 /125 W  
----- 089414

R 101519Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5944

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8524

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: IBADAN IN WAKE OF ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT

REF: LAGOS 8419

SUMMARY: AMCONSUL IBADAN REPORTS THAT CITY AND CAMPUS HAVE CALMED, THOUGH NOT RETURNED COMPLETELY TO NORMAL. REASONS FOR FMG ACTIONS IN IBADAN ARE UNCERTAIN FOR NOW -- AND WILL LIKELY REMAIN SO IN FUTURE.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AMCONSUL IBADAN REPORTS THAT IN WAKE OF COMBINED ARMY/POLICE SEARCH ON SEPTEMBER 6 AT UNIBADAN, SITUATION ON CAMPUS AND THROUGHOUT CITY HAS CALMED THOUGH NOT YET RETURNED COMPLETELY TO NORMAL. ARMY LIFTED BARRICADE ON SEPTEMBER 8 OF ROAD THROUGH SECOND DIVISION OFFICER QUARTERS, WHICH NORMALLY OPEN TO DAYTIME TRAFFIC. AS OF LATE EVENING SEPTEMBER 8, HOWEVER, POLICE STILL MAINTAINED TIGHT CHECKPOINT ON OYO ROAD BEYOND REAR ENTRANCE OF UNIVERSITY.

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2. IBADAN, AS USUAL, IS SEA OF RUMORS. THOUGH

SOME BELIEVE AUTHORITIES ARE CONTINUING SEARCH FOR ADEKUNLE, FORMER GENERAL IS IN FACT IN LAGOS. ONE OF MORE ACCEPTABLE NEW SPECULATIONS IS THAT REAL OBJECTIVE OF SEARCH IS PUBLICATIONS SUPPOSEDLY WRITTEN BE ADEKUNLE EXPOSING EXTENSIVE CORRUPTION AT TOP LEVELS OF FMG.

3. COMMENT: DEEP-FELT POPULAR YORUBA UNHAPINESS WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS OBVIOUS AND HAS BEEN ON RAPID RISE SINCE RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY CENSUS FIGURES, BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ALIENATION HAS REACHED POINT AT WHICH YORUBA LEADERS WOULD RISK COUP ATTEMPT THAT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY FAIL SINCE IT WOULD LACK ANY SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FROM OTHER TRIBAL OR REGIONAL GROUPS. THUS ANY SUCH PLANS ADEKUNLE MIGHT HAVE HAD WOULD HAVE PROBABLY POSSESSED SLENDER ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT. CONSIDERING THIS FACTOR, AND GIVEN PRESENT GOVERNMENT SENSITIVITY TO HIGH LEVEL CORRUPTION CHARGES (LAGOS A-190), SEARCH FOR POSSIBLE ADEKUNLE MANUSCRIPTS APPEARS MORE PLAUSIBLE THAN ANY EARLIER EXPLANATIONS FOR FMG ACTIONS (IN SIMILAR VEIN THERE IS ALSO REPORT FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE THAT ADEKUNLE REPORTEDLY HELD INFLAMMATORY PRESS CONFERENCE OVER WEEKEND, REPORTING OF WHICH WAS SQUELCHED). AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT FMG MOVES HAVE SIMPLY BEEN PRECAUTIONARY STEPS TAKEN TO INSURE SECURITY DURING GOWON'S ABSENCE; REPORTEDLY, SIMILAR (THOUGH LESS PUBLIC) ACTIONS WERE TAKEN TO OVERSEE MAJOR GENERAL ADEBAYO DURING HEAD OF STATE'S VISIT TO UK LAST YEAR. PURPOSES OF FMG ACTIVITIES IN IBADAN THUS REMAIN UNCERTAIN FOR NOW -- AND PROBABLY FOR FUTURE AS WELL.  
REINHARDT

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## Message Attributes

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